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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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DISCERNMENT.

HUMAN vs. PROPERTY RIGHTS

Secretary of Labor Addresses Seattle Convention.

LAW CREATES PROPERTY TITLES

General Welfare of Society Transcend Property Interests of Corporations and Individuals.

Seattle, Wash., Nov. 22.—Secretary of Labor William B. Wilson addressed the American Federation of Labor Convention on November 12. He discussed the situation in Michigan with regard to the strike of the Copper Miners, and declared that he would make public not only the wages paid to the Miners, the hours they worked and the labor conditions, but the enormous profits of the Mine Owners. Continuing, he said: "The Department of Labor as now organized and directed will be utilized to cooperate with the great trade union movement in its effort to elevate the standard of human society. One of the general duties imposed on the Department is that of promoting the welfare of wage workers. The one great specific duty thus imposed on the department is to act as a mediator and to appoint commissioners of conciliation in trade disputes. There can be no mediation, there can be no conciliation between employers and employes that does not presuppose collective bargaining and there cannot be collective bargaining that does not presuppose trade unionism.' In speaking of the situation at Calumet, Mich., the Secretary said: 'I had been given to know this custom to investigate wages, hours and conditions of labor and report. This time he said it had been determined to take the step further and investigate the earnings of the corporations involved. And I have little bit of confidence that I am going to give to you in an advance statement one of the items in that investigation that the largest corporation in the production of Copper in the Michigan District was organized in 1899 and that the face value of its capital stock is $2,500,000. The shares are $25 each. They were purchased at $17 each, so that the actual investment is $1,250,000. From that time until one year ago, the last fiscal report that we had, a period of forty-two years, that corporation declared in dividends $121,000,000, and made enjoyments out of its earnings of $75,000,000. Nearly $200,000,000 of actual net profits in a period of forty-two years on an investment of $1,250,000! And then the corporation not only protests against meeting committees of their workmen, but refuses to accept the good offices of the Department of Labor in negotiating the difficulties. They say their property is their own, that they have the right to do with it as they please. They have the hardihood to even take that position have a false conception of the titles to property. Law has created those titles," he continued, "not primarily for the welfare of the man to whom it conveys it, but for the welfare of the community. If any individual or corporation takes the ground that the property is his own, that he has the right to do with it as he pleases, and fails to take into consideration the fact that the title has been created to constitute him a trustee, for the welfare of society, then he is creating a condition that will cause enactments to modify or change titles to property, as it has a perfect right to do whenever in its judgment it deems it for the welfare of the people at large." Mr. Wilson condemned the sending of strike-breakers by private detective agencies, and said he wished to see organized a bureau of information, handled like the weather bureau, that would gather information as to where men could find employment, and give all the details, that to be useful, should be accurate and to the point. "Then," he continued, "when a man comes into the community for the purpose of taking the places of strikers, he does so with his eyes open. The recent street car troubles at Indianapolis we offered our good offices before the strike began," he said, "and had a stenog of whole heart on us by members of the Manufacturers' Association on the ground we were giving encouragement to trade unionism by tendering our representative in there. Notwithstanding that assertion of fact, the representative went in there, and when the strike occurred it was ultimately adjusted. We sent a representative out to the Colorado coal mine strike. We got into that strike situation or into that trade dispute situation before the strike had occurred, but we have thus far failed to secure an adjustment of the difficulty. We are not through with it yet by any means."

SEATTLE CONVENTION.

Washington, Nov. 22—Up to the time of going to press with the Weekly News Letter, Wednesday afternoon, November 19, information is to the effect that the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor is confined to its preliminary work, and now discussions on important matters before the convention are in progress. Much interest is being displayed by all of the delegates in supporting their particular views, and the convention as a whole is one of the most studious and active ever held. It is predicted that the work of the convention will be concluded by Saturday noon, November 22, and a sine die adjournment taken.

DRIVERS SIGN SCALE.

Houston, Texas, Nov. 22.—A new working agreement for the next twelve months, effective November 1, has been signed by the officials of the Hack, Cab, and Delivery Drivers' Union with their employers. The terms of the agreement include an increase in wages and also provision for extra drivers. The agreement is considered a good one and mutually satisfactory.

GLOVE WORKERS NOTES.

Washington, Nov. 22.—A report from the International Secretary of the American Federation of Labor, Wednesday afternoon, November 19, information is to the effect that the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor is confined to its preliminary work, and now discussions on important matters before the convention are in progress. Much interest is being displayed by all of the delegates in supporting their particular views, and the convention as a whole is one of the most studious and active ever held. It is predicted that the work of the convention will be concluded by Saturday noon, November 22, and a sine die adjournment taken.

NEW JOB FOR WOMEN.

Milwaukee, Nov. 22.—Considerable curiosity was aroused when six women began the work of helping to unload cargoes from one of the local wharves. These women were employed by a local commission firm to do longshoremen's work. The employers asserted that "it cost too much to hire men for the kind of work these women do," declaring that the women worked eight hours a day for $1.75. The employer further asserted that if men were used to do the work the women now performed they would demand at least $2.50 or $3 per day.

STANDS FOR SQUARE DEAL.

Little Falls, Minn., Nov. 22.—The Papermakers of this city have been on strike since last May. One of those heavily interested in the paper industry is B. F. Nelson, a millionaire lumberman and paper manufacturer of Minneapolis. The company formed the management of the mill over to a strike-breaking agency, which imported into Little Falls a number of armed men. Nelson wanted these thugs appointed police officers. They were not citizens of the state and the Mayor refused to appoint them. Nelson demanded that he appoint them, but the Mayor still refused. A number of citizens were appointed, however, as peace officers, but they were not of the type of men brought in by the strike-breaking agency. Being unable to move the Mayor, Nelson demanded that the Governor of the state remove the Mayor. In this he was also unsuccessful, for the Governor refused to comply with the demand, and Mayor Johnson of Little Falls is still on the job.

PHILLY'S TAXI STRIKE.

Philadelphia, Nov. 22.—The strike of union taxi drivers, which began this morning September were destined as follows: New York, 40,535; Pennsylvania, 22,646; Illinois, 12,132; Massachusetts, 9,949; Ohio, 7,768; New Jersey, 6,531; Michigan, 5,265; Connecticut, 3,983; while the balance were distributed to the various other states. There were debarred during the month under consideration 2,337, the greater number being excluded because of the likelihood of their becoming public charges. up with the union and granted the wage scale of $2.50 per day. Heretofore the pay was $2 per day. All the driver took in, but he was compelled to pay numerous expenses, such as gasoline and other incidentals, which reduced his earning power below the point of a living wage. Two other companies have believed to be upon the point of settlement, while other companies refuse to confer with representatives. How effective the detective agency has a number of men ready to take the places of the union men whenever called out, but another feature has entered into the controversy which is favorable to the union men. The insurance companies have taken a hand in the strike and warned the owners that the insurance on their machines would be cancelled so long as the strike continues. There is another interesting side to this controversy. It has been brought to light that the railroads and the large hotels at which there are regular cab stands, amounting in all to 37 per cent of all receipts from passengers who apply for vehicles at their respective stands, have capitalized their installations at the expense of the cab companies. The companies are apparently willing to pay this 37 per cent, but object to having it deducted from the salary of their chauffeurs and cab drivers.

OSKALOOSA STRIKE.

Oskaloosa, Iowa, Nov. 22.—Under the new State law, whereby the State is authorized to become the mediator in any industrial dispute, efforts are to be made to settle the street car strike now in progress in Oskaloosa. Under the statute the Governor must notify the owners of the strikers and the employees that a request has been received urging arbitration of the dispute. The Governor will ask each to submit the names of five men who may be considered eligible to serve on the board. From the four men from each list will be appointed and the two will select the third. If either side fails to submit the list should be settled. This law takes the form of compulsory investigation, and the next step further would come compulsory arbitration.

CITY COUNCIL ACTS.

Denver, Nov. 22.—Resolutions were introduced and adopted in the City Council recently, instructing the public utilities commission to investigate arbitrary advances in the price of coal and to look into the alleged coal trust operations of the city acquiring and operating coal mines so that the citizens of the city may be supplied with coal at reasonable price. Action was also taken demanding that the coal operators confer with the striking miners in an endeavor to settle the present controversy. The public utilities commission will take up the matter referred to it at once and two of the commissioners of the city were selected to take up the matter of the settlement of the strike with the coal operators.

INCREASE FOR METAL WORKERS.

Dallas, Texas, Nov. 22.—The union Sheet Metal Workers are to receive higher wages during the coming year, it is said. The sheet metal concerns in the building trades line have signed an agreement with the Sheet Metal Workers' Union, carrying with it an increase of 50 cents per day, beginning January 1, 1914. This agreement also calls for a half holiday on Saturday, making the 44-hour week. There is an advantage in unions negotiating now as the agreement will be effective in the coming year. It not only assures the workmen in the various trades of a stable wage scale, but also gives the employer an opportunity to base his contracts upon an established scale.

UNION BUSTERS.

Quebec, Canada, Nov. 22.—The Boot and Shoe Manufacturers of this city decided that after November 1 they would establish the open shop system in their factories. Consequently they notified the officials of the union that they would not renew the agreement with the union and that the members of the union as a body and that in future work would be carried on in such a manner as they desired to do it. Action on this matter has been held in abeyance, but the probabilities are that if the manufacturers start in their program beyond the first of the year a contest will ensue.

DES MOINES WANTS TEMPLE.

Des Moines, Ia., Nov. 22.—The trade unionists of this city recently met for the purpose of making arrangements for the re-leasing of their present headquarters. The meeting took a sudden and enthusiastic turn in favor of building a Labor Temple and buying a building suitable for such purposes. While definite arrangements were not perfected, sufficient interest was shown to indicate that measures will soon be taken to provide for the unions of this city an adequate building in which to locate and of the unions.

ADOPT SINGLE TAX.

Pueblo, Colo., Nov. 22.—At the last election in this city the tax levy for general purposes was reduced from five to three. An amendment to the city charter was also adopted providing for the adoption of taxation. The amendment providing eight-hour labor on public works for the union men only failed to secure the necessary two-thirds vote.

FOREIGN IMMIGRATION THREATENS TO SUBMERGE ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORKMEN

Washington, Nov. 22.—Like Niagara, the flood of immigration to the United States continues unabated. Most remarkable is the fact that the Southern Italians continue to pour into this country in an ever-increasing volume. During the month of September there landed at American ports 31,804 Southern Italians. Closely following came the Hebrew, with 18,141. A close third was Polish, with 14,319. Then comes Crotians and Slovenians, 6,011; Germans, 8,102; English, 5,679; Northern Italians, 4,586; Irish, 4,524; Scandinavians, 4,384; Russians, 3,963; Ruthenians, 3,578. The balance being scattered between twenty-seven different nationalities, with a small number not designated as to nationality. The total immigration for the month of September was 136,247. The increase over the previous month, August, was 10,067 immigrants. Classified according to occupations, the September immigration list included: Farm laborers, 30,345; laborers, 24,421; servants, 17,103. Among those declaring themselves as tradesmen were 3,647 Tailors, 1,748 Carpenters and Joiners, 1,636 Seamstresses, 1,266 Dressmakers, nearly all of the known trades being represented in the remaining number included in this classification. The distribution of these immigrants forms another interesting chapter in the immigration story. Those admitted during September were destined as follows: New York, 40,535; Pennsylvania, 22,646; Illinois, 12,132; Massachusetts, 9,949; Ohio, 7,768; New Jersey, 6,531; Michigan, 5,265; Connecticut, 3,983; while the balance were distributed to the various other states. There were debarred during the month under consideration 2,337, the greater number being excluded because of the likelihood of their becoming public charges.

For the months of July, August, and September there have been admitted to the ports of the United States 400,671 alien immigrants. During September there departed 19,241 emigrant aliens, and for the three months, July, August, and September, 68,917 emigrant aliens departed. If the ratio of immigration continues during the balance of the fiscal year the same as the three months just noted, July, August, and September, the total immigration for the year will aggregate 1,602,684, or the largest immigration ever recorded in the history of this country. The greatest number of immigrants admitted in any fiscal year heretofore was in 1907, when 1,285,349 were admitted to this country. From the above statistical information it becomes apparent that Congressional action will have to be taken soon if the submerging of American citizenship is to be avoided. The constant stream of foreigners, most of whom are exploited by the large corporations, cannot rise above their squalor, long hours, and meager wages, with an ever-increasing number of aliens being crowded into the labor market. The immigration bill passed by Congress at the last session and vetoed by President Taft would have afforded some relief. But there is an invisible influence at work constantly to thwart any efforts to reduce this foreign human cataract. It is with little difficulty we trace at least a part of this influence—but the crux of the whole situation is that employers of labor are desirous of always having a crowded labor market to draw from, that workmen will be compelled to compete with one another for jobs. The present situation must be corrected by the passage by Congress of an effective immigration bill.

PROPHESYING.

PREDICTS FIGHT IN ILLINOIS

Coal Operators' Magazine Sounds Battle Cry.

SAYS DISAGREEMENT IS CERTAIN

Urges All Mining Operators to Return to Membership in Operators' Association.

Washington, Nov. 22.—In a current issue of the Coal and Coke Operator and Fuel Magazine appears a statement in reference to the Illinois coal mining situation. This paper states that the wage agreement with the coal miners expires in April, and continues: "There is every indication that the miners intend to present demands for increased pay and changed working conditions. The paper adds: "To the miners' demands the operators are certain not to agree. They maintain that under the working and trade conditions now existing they are unable to pay wages equal to those paid in some other states. In February a joint conference of miners and operators will be held and trouble is expected to begin, to brew about that time." The mine operators are urged to get together to meet this situation. It is asserted that only ten-thirds of the coal mining in the State were represented at the recent annual meeting of the Illinois Coal Operators' Association. The publication further adds: "Two years ago when the war between the operators and miners was at fever heat some of the operators of the southern part of the state withdrew from the association, and now that peace has been declared that organization realize that to successfully meet the crisis next April these truant operators must be brought back into the fold. It is absolutely necessary for all of the mining companies of the state to stand together when the miners declare war, and the sooner the operators who are playing hookey respond to this necessity the better will be conditions in the Illinois coal industry. Thus endeth the reading of the first chapter."

CIGARMAKERS ASK INCREASE.

Minneapolis, Nov. 22.—The Cigarmakers' Union is negotiating a new bill of prices for the coming year. If successful, will increase their wages from 50 cents to $1 a thousand on all cigars. A considerable period of time has elapsed since there has been any increase in the pay of cigarmakers in the Mill City, but the cost of living has reached such a point that the demand for an increase has become imperative, and the union men in the cigar-making trade have decided to make a united, determined and persistent demand for a raise sufficient to give to them a decent living wage. The prospect, however, is bright for the Cigarmakers procuring the advance demanded.

ATLANTA TEMPLE PAID FOR.

Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 22.—Organized labor of this city is congratulating itself that the Labor Temple in this city is now entirely free of any indebtedness, the last $5,000 obligation having been liquidated. While the Temple has been a paying proposition for a long time, it was not deemed wise to permit the trades' city to run too low by the liquidation of its obligations. However, within the recent past it was considered advisable to put the fact that sufficient funds were available, to completely wipe out the debt, and to devote them to the gratification of the entire movement.

NO UNIVERSAL LABEL.

Seattle, Wash., Nov. 22.—The convention of the Union Label Trades Department was the most successful ever held. The most important matter before the convention was the proposition to establish an exhaustive investigation and reported against the adoption of the universal label. The report of this special committee was unanimously endorsed by the Union Label Trades convention. All of the old officers were re-elected for the ensuing term.

ADOPT SINGLE TAX.

Pueblo, Colo., Nov. 22.—At the last election in this city the tax levy for general purposes was reduced from five to three. An amendment to the city charter was also adopted providing for the adoption of taxation. The amendment providing eight-hour labor on public works for the union men only failed to secure the necessary two-thirds vote.

ARROGANCE.

OPEN FIGHT ON W. B. WILSON

Copper Mine Owners "Offended" by Seattle Address.

TRUTH EVIDENTLY CUTS DEEP

Attempt to Force Resignation Shows Extremity of Copper Mining Magnates.

Washington, Nov. 22.—It is reported that a telegram, inspired by the Copper Mine owners of Calumet, Mich., has been sent to the President of the United States, protesting against the address delivered by Secretary of the Department of Labor William B. Wilson in Seattle, Wash., recently. It is also claimed to be the forerunner of a movement to force the resignation of Wilson. Secretary Wilson in the address referred to took occasion to announce that the actual investment made by the largest corporation in that district, $1,250,000, netted in that in forty-two years dividends of $121,000,000 have been declared upon the capital stock, aside from investments made out of its earnings of $75,000,00, making approximately $200,000,000 on an investment of $1,250,000 or $200,000,000. It is asserted that about 120 signed the telegram, and the President is urged to demand the resignation of the Secretary of Labor. The expressions used by Secretary Wilson with reference to the rights of property very closely follow the lines of the opinions heretofore expressed by the President himself. Therefore, it is not expected that the telegrams demanding the resignation of Secretary of Labor Wilson will have any effect whatsoever. If the stating of the truth, as was done by Secretary Wilson, is offensive to the Copper Mine Operators, it is not to be wondered at, for the arrogant position that they have taken indicates that they propose to use their power to crush any individual or combination of individuals who do not thoroughly coincide with their program of extracting fabulous profits. The shedding of light upon the dark operations of the Copper Operators in the treatment of their workmen and society is not taken kindly to by the mining magnates.

LARGE INSTALLATION MEETING.

Lowell, Mass., Nov. 22.—Representatives of the International Association of Machinists have been successful in organizing a large lodge here, and on the evening of November 17, the new officials were installed and over 800 members obligated. The organizing work done in this connection by the Machinists has been unusually successful, and, with still a large number of Machinists outside the organization, efforts will be continued to materially increase the size of the lodge. Much enthusiasm exists, not only among the newly organized, but also among those who are not yet members. The organization campaign has created much activity in the organized movement here, and all other organizations are increasing in membership and efficiency.

LABOR FORWARD CONVENTION.

Wheeling, W. Va., Nov. 22.—The labor forward convention that has been called for November 30 bids fair to be of large proportions. Invitations have been sent to all local unions in the Wheeling district, and from indications there will be a hearty response. The convention has been called for the purpose of permanently organizing a committee for the organization of the unorganized. Invitations have been extended to the various international organizations, and it is expected that a number will be represented at the gathering.

METAL TRADES DEPARTMENT.

Seattle, Nov. 22.—The Metal Trades Department Convention was one of the largest ever held. Changes were made in the law relating to local councils. Vice-President Valentine of the Iron Molders, declined to again accept office in the Department, and James W. Kline, of Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, was elected in his stead. Aside from this change, all officers were re-elected.

NONUNION MEN STRIKE.

Davenport, Iowa, Nov. 22.—There have been many instances during the past year of nonunion men exercising their prerogatives by refusing to continue at work for a scale which they did not believe to be fair. In one of the eight factories in this city conditions became so bad and wages so inadequate that the nonunion employes endeavored to secure a horizontal increase in wages, and, failing, went on strike. These Cigarmakers were getting $6 per thousand, but because they could not with their small stipend, asked their employers to increase the rate to $7.50 in order that they might meet the ever-increasing living expenses. The employers refused to accede to the request, and every Cigarmaker walked out. The strikers declare they will undoubtedly serve as a lesson to the strikers involved in this controversy that the only means of successfully protecting their best interests is membership in the Cigarmakers' International Union.

GLASS WORKERS STRIKE.

Moundville, W. Va., Nov. 22.—The members of the American Flint Glass Workers employed at the Fostoria works in this city are on strike. They number about 250, and added to these are about 200 boys. The entire plant is shut down. The trouble is the result of the discharge of a glass presser who was ordered to do gathering at a reduced wage scale. The gatherers refused to work with the management, but no satisfaction was received. In fact, the management became extremely obstinate, and the strike followed.

GOES TO ARBITRATION.

East Liverpool, Ohio, Nov. 22.—The 1,000 pottery workers have returned to their benches in the general ware potteries at Newell and Chester, W. Va., and in East Liverpool, and Wellsville, Ohio. The strike of 300 chinamakers precipitated the strike, which has been terminated by the appointment of a board of arbitration. Pending the settlement of the dispute the claymakers have returned to work, thus opening up the potteries in the places mentioned.

BUYS TEMPLE SITE.

Johnson City, Ill., Nov. 22.—The trade unionists of this city have just bought a site for a labor temple, paying therefor $2,500. Plans are now being made to raise sufficient funds to start building.

UNITY.

YIELDS TO BROTHERHOODS

Southern Pacific Railway Company Backs Down.

FEDERATION WINS CONTENTION

Four Operating Organizations Pool Issues to Redress Their Grievances.

Houston, Tex., Nov. 22.—The strike of the four brotherhoods, the Locomotive Engineers, Firemen, Trainmen, and Conductors, which threatened to tie up the Sunset Central lines of the Southern Pacific, has been brought to a close by the management of the company yielding to the demands of the men. It appears that for many months there have been similar grievances complained of by each of the brotherhoods, and no progress made in their settlement. It was, finally determined by the four organizations to pool their issues and make a united demand upon the railroad company. This program was carried out. This plan was an exact duplicate of the one adopted by the shop trades that have been on strike for two years on the same lines, the management refusing to deal with each one of the several crafts, but insisting that all should meet their representatives in a conference with certain agreements which are now in force between the Locomotive Firemen and the company. The Southern Pacific Railroad, will now meet a federated committee of the four brotherhoods, who will confer with them at a mutual settlement of the controversy.

ANOTHER LABOR HOME.

Springfield, Ohio, Nov. 22.—Not to be behind the procession that is moving all over the country to provide union labor, in places where there are a sufficient number of unions to meet the expense, the trade unionists of this city, through field trade unionists have joined the procession. Three years ago a few enthusiasts formed the Springfield Labor Temple Realty Company, which has, so far, obtained $30,000 toward a home for the labor organizations of the city. Its efforts have finally been crowned with success, and the building on the Y. W. C. A. site on West I Street has been purchased. It is proposed to take possession of the building immediately and make the necessary changes in the building so that it will conform with the requirements of the city. Extensive alterations to be made now are to be temporary, but it is expected that when the membership is increased that it will be made the property will be worth not less than $60,000. The unions are taking a most enthusiastic over the purchase, and no fears are entertained but that a sufficient income will be derived not only maintain the building but to add to it as the growth of the movement demands.

PLASTERERS' STRIKE SETTLED.

Houston, Texas, Nov. 22.—The Plasterers' strike, which has been on for several weeks, has been settled. The agreement has been entered into all plastering work upon buildings, the contracts of which were let prior to July 1, will be completed at a scale of 12 per day, while contracts taken subsequent to that date will be paid 50 cents per day. It is also provided that in any dispute which may arise settlement shall be left to a board of four members of plasterers and the arbitration committee of the master builders, the third member of the master builders committee should fail to reach an agreement, the parties to the dispute shall agree upon a third man and his decision shall be final and binding upon both parties. Another clause is that either party by notice may ask for a meeting to negotiate any change in the contract, which is to be effective until January 1, 1915.

BANQUET LYNCH.

Syracuse, Nov. 22.—The trade unionists of this city gave a complimentary dinner in honor of Thomas M. Lynch, recently appointed Labor Commissioner of the State of New York. The banquet was held in the Iroquois Hotel on the evening of November 18. Invitations were extended to prominent officials of the State, and to labor men from all parts of it. A number of trade unionists of this city attended. Speeches in the honor of Mr. Lynch were made, and the many years prior to the time of having been elected President of the International Typographical Union.

NOMINATE I. T. U. HEAD.

New York, Nov. 22.—At a meeting of Typographical Union No. 6 last night, Charles M. Lynch was nominated for President of the International Typographical Union. In the event of the latter's election he will resign as Commissioner of the State of New York, and succeeds to the Presidency by all the unexpired term. The regular election for officers of the International Typographical Union will occur in spring of next year.

A TRAP.

New York, Nov. 22.—Alleged shortages are being sent to subsequent manager by a so-called commission was substantiated in report to the Building Trades Employers' Association of this city by the SHINGLE MILL.

ELECT TWO UNION MEN.

Springfield, O., Nov. 22.—At the recent election two union men were elected to public office, one being the important position of city commissioner under the new charter. A. L. Beamish, a member of the Springfield Typographical Union, secured as a result of his election to the first of twenty-one candidates. He will hold office for four years. The other is a member of the Printing Pressmen's Union, was elected constable, receiving a large majority over his